

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Brown County



305 E. WALNUT STREET
P. O. BOX 23600
GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN 54305-3600
PHONE (920) 448-4015 FAX (920) 448-6221

VETERANS SUBCOMMITTEE

Jack Krueger, Chair
Sherry Steenbock, Vice Chair
Donald Bettine, James Haskins, John Maino,
Troy Ness, Duane Pierce, Kristen Verhaagh,
John Walschinski.

****Running Total of Veterans' Certificates:**

VETERANS' RECOGNITION

SUBCOMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 12, 2010

****5:15 p.m.****

Room 201, Northern Building
305 E. Walnut Street

**** Please Note Date ****

1. Call Meeting to Order.
2. Invocation by Jim Haskins.
3. Approve/Modify Agenda.
4. Approve/Modify Minutes of April 13, 2010.
5. Approve Joe Witkowski as Member of Committee.
6. Report from CVSO Jerry Polus (if available).
 - a) Report on the Band for the Brown County Fair.
7. Feasibility of Sponsors for Regular Scheduled Veteran Media Information Program.
8. Report from Chair Jack Krueger
9. Report from Committee Members Present (Steenbock, Bettine, Haskins, Maino, Ness, Pierce, Verhaagh, & Walschinski).
10. Such other Matters as Authorized by Law.
11. Adjourn.

Jack Krueger, Chair

Notice is hereby given that action by Committee may be taken on any of the items which are described or listed in this agenda. Please take notice that it is possible additional members of the Board of Supervisors may attend this meeting, resulting in a majority or quorum of the Board of Supervisors. This may constitute a meeting of the Board of Supervisors for purposes of discussion and information gathering relative to this agenda.
Word97agenda/humsvc/Veteran'Subcmte/May_2010.doc

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY
VETERANS' RECOGNITION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 19.84, Wis. Stats. a regular meeting of the **Brown County Veterans' Recognition Subcommittee** was held on Tuesday, April 13, 2010, at 5:15 p.m., in Room 201 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

PRESENT: Jack Krueger—Chair, Jim Haskins, Duane "Snake" Pierce, Don Bettine, Sherry Steenbock, John Walschinski.
EXCUSED: John Maino, Troy Ness, Kristen Verhaagh.
ALSO PRESENT: Jerry Polus, Joe Witkowski.

1. Call Meeting to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jack Krueger at 5:15 p.m.

2. Invocation by Jim Haskins

3. Approve/Modify Agenda:

A motion was made by Don Bettine and seconded by Duane Pierce to approve. Vote taken. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. Approve/Modify Minutes of March 9, 2010.

A motion was made by Don Bettine and seconded by Duane Pierce to approve. Vote taken. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Report from CVSO Jerry Polus (if available).

Polus stated that he had spoken with Kathy Kocken, Brown County Fair Board Administrative Assistant and Exhibits Coordinator, and she had asked if the committee would agree to have the Veteran's ceremony again on a Saturday (August 21, 2010). Traditionally in the past the committee had hosted their ceremony on a Sunday except for last year which they had held it on a Saturday. Part of the reasoning is that Saturday there is a better stage availability and Sunday gets to be a little crowded with all the events. Don Bettine explained that they had originally held it on a Sunday because years past it was suggested to host it on that day by the Fair. Haskins and Pierce stated that they felt it was a good idea; Steenbock is unavailable if it is held on Saturday.

Polus informed the committee that Ms. Kocken had made a request to have the Navy Band return to this year's event because of their popularity last year. The only problem is that the band can not confirm until 60 days before the event. Polus stated that he had told Kocken that he had made some contact with the National Guard from Madison. He suggested recontacting the National Guard band with the set date but have the Navy band as a backup and go with whomever confirms first. If the National Guard states that they are available then Polus suggested locking them in and letting the Navy band know that the committee felt they were great and perhaps next year they could schedule something. The committee is not comfortable waiting for a confirmation from the Navy Band; it is too short of a time to get publicity out for the fair or too short of notice to book another band.

Bettine questioned how the monthly program at the Aging Disability Resource Center went. Polus responded that they had Beth Ann Smith, Program Benefits Manager, from the VA Medical Center and talked about eligibility and updated everyone in the Green Bay clinic. She gave Polus a drawing of the clinic layout that she had. It's going to be a three story building, 165,000+ sq. ft., and gave an overview of all the specialty clinics that will be a part of it. He felt it was going to be the "best of the best" of facilities. There is yet to select a contractor to build the facility but Polus felt it would be completed in 2012. He stated he had a meeting at the end of the month with Mr. Robert H. Beller, the FACHE, Medical Center Director, and Polus plans to get more details such as anticipated staff, etc. He assumed that he will be able to give a more accurate update on the timetable.

Polus reported that last week they had closed down their office for two days, a first in his 18 years, and participated in a kaizen event which is part of the LEAN management concept and process improvement.

Lastly, this Thursday, April 15, 2010, the Wisconsin Board of Veterans Affairs will be meeting in Green Bay at the Best Western Midway Hotel at 1:00 p.m. Dinner and a speaker to follow at Brett Favre's Steakhouse. Then Friday, April 16, 2010, the Council on Veterans Programs will meet at 8:00 a.m., same location. Both meetings are open to the public.

A motion was made by Jim Haskins and seconded by Don Bettine to host the Veteran's event on Saturday, August 1, 2010. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. **Feasibility of Sponsors for Regular Scheduled Veteran Media Information Program.**
6. **Report from Chair Jack Krueger**

Report from Committee Members Present (Steenbock, Bettine, Haskins, Maino, Ness, Pierce, Verhaagh, & Walschinski).

Pierce reported that Retired Lt. Col. James H. Willbanks is the featured speaker for the program "The Battle of An Loc 1972," set for 7 p.m. Wednesday in the Brown County Central Library auditorium, 515 Pine St. Secondly, tonight (April 13, 2010) at Heritage Hill, they are having a grand opening of the War, Art and the Vietnam Veteran Exhibit. Heritage Hill plays a roll in welcoming home Vietnam Veterans by hosting an exhibit of art drawn by soldiers. The exhibit runs April 13-May 30, 2010 (event posters attached).

Krueger had asked Pierce if he had an update regarding the amount of bikers that are scheduled to arrive for the LZ Lambeau event. Pierce stated he had no idea but had heard it could be anywhere from 5,000-50,000. Pierce stated that the group riding from LaCrosse was limited to 1,244 to represent the number lost from Wisconsin during Vietnam. Just before the ride takes off they will be given a colored armband and will have police escorts and a huey flying overhead. If there are any other people coming from LaCrosse, they will follow an hour behind the first group. He stated there will be a group coming from Eau Claire, Madison through Stevens Point, and from Racine, Kenosha and up through Milwaukee. Pierce reported that rather than taking the main highway to Green Bay from the Timber Rattlers stadium in Appleton, they will be riding through Freedom to avoid Memorial weekend traffic.

He stated the bikes are expected to arrive that Friday around 1-2 p.m. Veterans will be at the atrium giving educational presentations to school groups. The official opening of the ground is expected to take place around 4:30 p.m. and will be open throughout the weekend till Sunday evening. The Moving Wall will be open for exhibit from Thursday till its Monday night closing ceremony. There will be a military aircraft and auto display at the airport and a photography exhibit at the Neville Museum. Krueger stated that he felt the marketing was dragging, he had heard from several veterans that they did not know this was going on.

Haskins passed around a flyer for the Pearly Gates Bar and Grill Veterans Ride for Saturday, July 10, 2010. The Pearly Gates (www.pearlygatesbar.com), sponsors of the Vietnam Veterans 224 and the Desert Veterans of WI, ride to raise awareness and support for Veterans of America and host annual fundraisers in July and August. Pierce stated they had raised over \$50,000 in one afternoon last year. They paid tribute to disabled vets in 2009 and WWII vets in 2008. Haskins stated they have made an unbelievable video presentation of years past and have it on DVD.

Haskins shared with the committee an article in the paper, "Protests at soldiers' funerals are despicable", (attached is the article from the postcrescent.com).

Bettine reported that the United Patriotic Society will have their usual Memorial Day ceremony on Sunday, May 30, 2010 at Admiral Flatley Park on S. Washington St. at 6:30 p.m. His VFW Post on Saturday, May 22, 2010, will be placing around 2,000 flags up at Fort Howard Memorial Park with the help of scout troops. Bettine stated he is waiting to hear back from two members of his group regarding the Northeast Wisconsin Old Glory Honor Flight that were on it. He stated their group paid half the fees for the guardian for each member. Also, NEW Lutheran High School will host a special Veteran's Celebration next Tuesday, May 4, 2010, with Retired US Army Sergeant Sammy Lee Davis, whose story is honored in the movie Forest Gump.

Such other Matters as Authorized by Law:

Add to May's agenda the Request for Approval of Joe Witkowski as Member of Committee.

7. Adjourn:

A motion was made by J. Haskins and seconded by J. Walschinski to adjourn at 6:15 p.m. Vote taken. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia A. Loehlein
Recording Secretary



War. Art and the Vietnam Veteran Exhibit

AT HERITAGE HILL STATE HISTORICAL PARK

*"Art inspired by combat and created
by veterans of the Vietnam War"*

"An Evening With An American Hero"

SAMMY L. DAVIS



Sammy L. Davis is a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient. Hear Mr. Davis's incredible story of heroism while being wounded in battle and how he refused medical assistance to save others. He was an inspiration for the 1994 movie, **Forest Gump**, where his Medal of Honor award ceremony was used in the film.

MAY 5th & 6th - For Two Nights Only!

6:30 - 7:30 pm Reception & Autograph Signing

7:30 - 8:30 pm Sammy L. Davis Presentation

\$25 per person

\$20 per person for Heritage Hill or Cotton Club Members

***Tickets limited to the first 150 people*



State Historical Park
2640 S. Webster Ave.
Green Bay, WI 54301
(920) 448-5150
www.heritagehillgb.org

Event Sponsors:



Wisconsin Public Service
Foundation



Wealth Management
The GB Group

Betsy & Phil Hendrickson
Jim & Wendy Dockendorff
Ron & Colleen Weyers
Don & Roxanne Weber





War. Art and the Vietnam Veteran Exhibit

AT HERITAGE HILL STATE HISTORICAL PARK

*"Art inspired by combat and created
by veterans of the Vietnam War"*



APRIL 13 - MAY 31

(SUNDAY - FRIDAY)

SUNDAY: Noon - 4:30 pm

MONDAY - FRIDAY: 10 am - 4:30 pm

\$5 per person - FREE for all veterans

OPEN SATURDAY, MAY 22

LZ LAMBEAU WEEKEND EXPANDED HOURS: May 21 - 23

(SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS)



State Historical Park
2640 S. Webster Ave.
Green Bay, WI 54301
(920) 448-5150
www.heritagehillgb.org

Event Sponsors:



Betsy & Phil Hendrickson
Jim & Wendy Dockendorff
Ron & Colleen Weyers
Don & Roxanne Weber





War. Art and the Vietnam Veteran Exhibit

AT HERITAGE HILL STATE HISTORICAL PARK

*"Art inspired by combat and created
by veterans of the Vietnam War"*

APRIL 13th - Opening Night Reception

Join us for a wine and cheese reception and guest speaker
RETIRED U.S. ARMY COLONEL TIM LAWRIE:



- ★ Two tours in Vietnam
- ★ Awarded the Purple Heart & Silver Star
- ★ Worked with Gen. Schwarzkopf, General Colin Powell, Secretary Cheney and President George H.W. Bush in planning Desert Storm.
- ★ Military analyst on MSNBC, NBC and the Canadian Broadcasting Network

6:30 - 7:30 pm Wine & Cheese Tasting Reception
7:30 - 8:30 pm "A Soldier's Story" - Tim Lawrie

\$15 per person

\$10 per person for Heritage Hill or Cotton Club Members

***Tickets limited to the first 150 people*



State Historical Park
2640 S. Webster Ave.
Green Bay, WI 54301
(920) 448-5150
www.heritagehillgb.org

Event Sponsors:

Betsy & Phil
Hendrickson

DAVIS | KUELTHAU
attorneys at law

NEWS TALK
97.5 FM 1360 AM
WTAQ.COM

Jim & Wendy
Dockendorff

www.BRENNAN
BUICK.com Premium
American
Motorcars

WIXX 101

Don & Roxanne
Weber

Associated
Bank

BAIRD
Wealth Management
The GB Group

FOX11
WLUK-TV
fox11online.com



WPS
Wisconsin Public Service
Foundation

KWIK
TRIP





GRAND PRIZE

Provided By



of Manitowoc, WI



In Service to America

Supporting Our Veterans of America!!



ENTER TO WIN A

'10 CUSTOM STREET GLIDE

SAT, JULY 10th Drawing At 8 PM

\$100 Per Ticket

At Pearly Gates

Only 500 Tickets Sold!

Raffle # R0027075A-00487

**1st Place: Can-Am 400
Outlander**



Provided By:
**Simonar Sports
Luxemburg, WI**

2nd Place: \$1,000

3rd-4th Place: \$500

5th-6th Place: \$250

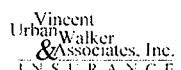
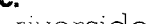
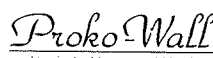
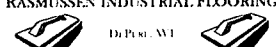
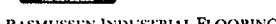
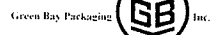
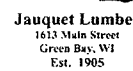
7th-30th Place: \$100

Tickets Available At

Pearly Gates - 3551 Finger Rd

Green Bay, WI 54311 - (920) 465-4656

For More Info go to
pearlygatesride.com



Leonard Pitts Jr. Protests at soldiers' funerals are despicable

By Leonard Pitts • April 6, 2010

You will be furious when you finish this column. Fair warning.

In March 2006, a 20-year-old Marine, Lance Cpl. Matthew Snyder, was killed in a motor vehicle accident in Iraq. His family probably thought that the most painful blow imaginable. Truth is, their pain was only beginning.

Cpl. Snyder's death, you see, came to the attention of Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kan. Westboro, for those who do not know, is no more a church than is your average gas station toilet. According to published reports, it claims about 75 members, most of them kin to its leader, Fred Phelps. And Phelps preaches a grotesque "gospel" of anti-homosexuality.

It is his thesis that because America has embraced "fags," God is punishing the nation. God's instrument of choice? Dead soldiers. "Thank God for dead soldiers," he says. Phelps has taken to spreading this message at the funerals of service men and women — noisy, hateful protests that grieving families are forced to endure on one of the worst days of their lives.

So in March 2006, Westboro protesters showed up at St. John's Catholic Church ("St. John's Kennel" in their formulation) in Westminster, Md., for Snyder's funeral, reportedly carrying signs depicting male sex and slogans like "Semper Fi Fags."

Are you furious yet? This isn't even the bad part.

For the record, no one — Westboro included — has accused Matthew Snyder of being gay — not that that should matter. But the church's bizarre argument is that the death of every dead serviceperson should be celebrated as God's punishment of a gay-tolerant nation.

Cpl. Snyder's father, Albert, sued the "church" for disrupting his son's funeral. In October 2007, he won a \$10.9 million verdict. Last September, an

appeals court tossed that verdict out.

Nor is even that the worst of it. No, the worst is that the court recently ordered Snyder to pay Westboro's legal bills. You heard me. Snyder, who makes \$43,000 a year, must pay \$16,500 to the people who made a circus of his son's funeral. "You can do the math," says his attorney, Sean Summers. Snyder has been forced to seek donations online (www.matthewsnyder.org). Westboro says it will use the money to give the same treatment to another grieving family.

Take it as a reminder that what is legal is not necessarily right. I admit to being conflicted. I am a strong believer in the First Amendment and in the principle that freedom of speech means nothing unless it is protected for the vilest among us: even the flag burner, even the anti-Semite, even, as in this case, the intellectually incontinent. On the other hand, the protections are not absolute: There is no First Amendment right to threaten or to libel.

So surely we could carve out some reasonable exception that would keep a Fred Phelps from intruding upon the solemnity of a private funeral. Of course, those are legal questions and I am content to leave them to legal minds.

I am consumed with a human question: How addled by hatred do you have to be, how niggardly of spirit, shriveled of soul, and just plain crazy, to do what these people have done? To use one of my mother's favorite expressions, these "Christians" are going to knock the bottom out of hell.

While we await that lovely day, this case is bound for the Supreme Court where Summers will continue representing Albert Snyder for free. I asked the attorney why and he told me that he's a veteran and has a brother doing a third tour in Afghanistan.

"I would be appalled if someone did something like this at my funeral."

You'd like to think that's unimaginable.

But we live in a country where it's anything but.

For better — and some days, for worse — those are the rights people like Matthew Snyder die to defend.

Leonard Pitts Jr., winner of the 2004 Pulitzer Prize for Commentary, is a columnist for the Miami Herald, 1 Herald Plaza, Miami, FL 33132. E-mail: lpitts@miamiherald.com.